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A

FORM OF PRAYER

PREPARATORY TO

CONFIRMATION;

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

DEVOTIONS

TO BE USED IN PRIVATE, BEFORE AND AFTER

CONFIRMATION.

BIBLIOTHECA

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following service is intended to be used with Candidates for Confirmation for some weeks before they are confirmed, either at the time they are assembled for instruction and exhortation, or at some other regular time; so that prayer for God's grace may be a prominent part of their preparation.

If it should be wished that the parents and sponsors should be present, and join in prayer for their children and godchildren, the words in the sixth Collect "Leave us not," should be changed into "Leave not, we beseech Thee, these thy servants," and a similar change made in the seventh Collect, as is indicated in the margin.

The Confession and seventh and eighth Collects are by Bishop J. Taylor, and the two Prayers in the Private Devotions are by Robert Nelson.

A FORM OF PRAYER

PREPARATORY TO

CONFIRMATION.

The Minister shall first read these sentences from Holy Scripture, and the Exhortation following.

I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth. *S. John* xiv. 16, 17.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *S. Matt.* xxviii. 19.

Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. *S. John* iii. 5.

By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 1 *Cor.* xii. 13.

When Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them. *Acts* xix. 6.

Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God? 1 *Cor.* vi. 19.

Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. *Rom.* viii. 9.

As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. *Rom.* viii. 14.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. *Gal.* v. 25.

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 1 *Cor.* xii. 4.

No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 1 *Cor.* xii. 3.

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts. 1 *Cor.* xiv. 1.

Seeing then, brethren, that Holy Scripture witnesseth to us, that they who are baptized into Christ, are baptized by God the Holy Ghost, and that they who would abide in Christ must live and walk in the Spirit, I beseech you to call to mind the many ways in which you have grieved the Holy Spirit, and broken the covenant of grace into which in your Baptism you were received by God. That so, humbling yourselves before Almighty God our heavenly Father, and confessing your sins, you may, through his great mercy, be raised up again; and may receive in the laying on of hands by his servant the Bishop, the increase of his Holy Spirit; and may be preserved in the unity of his holy Church, and enabled to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit; and may at length be presented without spot before God, through the merits of his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Then shall the Catechumens say the following Confession after the Minister.

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, we have

sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments. We have broken thy covenant, which Thou madest with us in our Baptism, and grieved and provoked thy Holy Spirit, through whom we were born again. We have well-nigh separated ourselves by our sins from the mystical body of thy dear Son, and are no more worthy to be called thy children, or to be received into thy heavenly kingdom.

For we have yielded to the temptations of Satan, and have walked in pride and vanity, in selfishness and deceit, in anger and malice, and have done the works of the evil one.

We have coveted and pursued the pomps and vanities of this wicked world.

We have indulged the sinful lusts of the flesh.

We have loved that which Thou hatest, and have even hated to be reformed by Thee.

We have neither believed in Thee, O our God; nor loved Thee, nor obeyed Thee as we ought, and as we were solemnly bound to do.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare us, good Lord, and turn us, and have mercy upon us for his sake, whose Body was broken and his Blood shed as the propitiation for our sins.

Take not away thy mercies from us; but renew, O Lord, we beseech Thee, whatever has been decayed by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by our own carnal will and frailness; and continue us, though we are unworthy, in the unity of thy

holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest. Turn thy face from our sins;
Answer. And put out all our misdeeds.
Make us a clean heart, O God;
And renew a right spirit within us.
Cast us not away from thy presence;
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.
O give us the comfort of thy help again;
And stablish us with thy free Spirit.
Then will we run the way of thy commandments;
When Thou hast set our hearts at liberty.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Let us pray.

O Lord, raise up, we pray Thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Then shall be sung or said, all standing, the Psalms that follow.

Psalm cxliii.

1 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and consider my desire: hearken unto me for thy truth and righteousness' sake.

2 And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

3 For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground: he hath laid me in the darkness, as the men that have been long dead.

4 Therefore is my spirit vexed within me: and my heart within me is desolate.

5 Yet do I remember the time past; I muse upon all thy works: yea, I exercise myself in the works of thy hands.

6 I stretch forth my hands unto Thee: my soul gaspeth unto Thee as a thirsty land.

7 Hear me, O Lord, and that soon, for my spirit waxeth faint: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

8 O let me hear thy loving-kindness betimes in the morning, for in Thee is my trust: shew Thou me the way that I should walk in, for I lift up my soul unto Thee.

9 Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: for I flee unto Thee to hide me.

10 Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee, for Thou art my God: let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness.

11 Quicken me, O Lord, for thy name's sake: and for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

12 And of thy goodness slay mine enemies: and destroy all them that vex my soul; for I am thy servant.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Psalm xxvii.

1 The Lord is my light, and my salvation; whom then shall I fear: the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked, even mine enemies, and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh: they stumbled and fell.

3 Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid: and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in Him.

4 One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require: even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple.

5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in his tabernacle: yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall He hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

6 And now shall He lift up mine head: above mine enemies round about me.

7 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness: I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.

8 Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto Thee: have mercy upon me, and hear me.

9 My heart hath talked of Thee, Seek ye my face: thy face, Lord, will I seek.

10 O hide not Thou thy face from me: nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

11 Thou hast been my succour: leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

12 When my father and my mother forsake me: the Lord taketh me up.

13 Teach me thy way, O Lord: and lead me in the right way, because of mine enemies.

14 Deliver me not over into the will of mine adversaries: for there are false witnesses risen up against me, and such as speak wrong.

15 I should utterly have fainted: but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

16 O tarry thou the Lord's leisure: be strong, and He shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Psalm cxxv.

1 They that put their trust in the Lord shall be even as the mount Sion: which may not be removed, but standeth fast for ever.

2 The hills stand about Jerusalem: even so standeth the Lord round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.

3 For the rod of the ungodly cometh not into

the lot of the righteous: lest the righteous put their hand unto wickedness.

4 Do well, O Lord: unto those that are good and true of heart.

5 As for such as turn back unto their own wickedness: the Lord shall lead them forth with the evil doers; but peace shall be upon Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Psalm cxxxiii.

1 Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is: brethren, to dwell together in unity!

2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down unto the beard: even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.

3 Like as the dew of Hermon: which fell upon the hill of Sion.

4 For there the Lord promised his blessing: and life for evermore.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Then shall be read the Lesson taken from 1 Cor. xii. *and* xiii., *beginning at* xii. 27.

Now are ye the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church,

first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a

child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Then shall be sung, or said by Minister and Catechumens alternately, the Hymn,

Veni Creator Spiritus.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy seven-fold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above,
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.
Enable, with perpetual light,
The dulness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far our foes, give peace at home:
Where Thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And Thee, of both, to be but one.
That through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Then shall be sung or said, all standing, the Nicene Creed.

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate: He suffered and was buried, And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the prophets. And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.
O Lord, save these thy servants,
Who put their trust in Thee.
Send them help from thy Holy Place;
And evermore mightily defend them.
O Lord, save thy people:
And bless thine inheritance.

O God, who hast prepared for them that love Thee such good things as pass man's understanding; pour into our hearts such love towards Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech Thee, the Spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good

without Thee, may by Thee be enabled to live according to thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth, send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace, and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee; grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

God, who didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O Lord God Almighty, who didst endue thy holy Apostles, and those on whom they did lay their hands, with singular gifts of the Holy Ghost; *leave us not, we beseech Thee* *, destitute of thy manifold gifts, nor yet of grace to use them always to thy honour and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

* Or *leave not, we beseech Thee, these thy servants.*

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, and the well-spring of Divine graces, who hast vouchsafed to regenerate *us* * by water and the Holy Ghost in the

* Or *these thy servants.*

blessed laver of Baptism, thereby receiving *us* † into the number of thy children, and making *us* † heirs of everlasting life, in the communion of thy glorious saints; strengthen us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, with thy blessed Spirit, the ghostly Comforter; and daily increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fulfil *us* †, O Lord, with the spirit of thy holy fear, even through Him who hath sent down the Spirit upon his Church, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

† Or *them.*

O Lord God, who dwellest in Sion, and delightest to have thy habitation in the hearts of men: Thou hast built the Church as a city upon a hill, and laid the foundation of it upon the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone: make us to be a spiritual building fit for thy habitation, and a residence for thy Holy Spirit, grounding us in faith, building us up in hope, and perfecting us in charity, that we, being joined in the communion of saints, in the union of the holy Catholic Church militant on earth, may all partake of the blessings of thy Church triumphant, in the city of Thee our God, in the celestial Jerusalem, where Thou livest and reignest, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way

of thy servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by thy most gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

DEVOTIONS

TO BE USED IN PRIVATE FOR SOME TIME PREVIOUS TO CONFIRMATION.

NOTE. The following Devotions should be used, if possible, at a fixed hour, distinct from your Morning and Evening Prayers: but if this be not possible, they may be added at your usual hours of prayer.

Take daily one of the following passages for meditation,

Isaiah xi. 1—9. S. Luke ii. 39—52. S. John xiv. 15—27; xv. 1—12. Acts viii. 5—17; xix. 1—6. Rom. viii. 1—17. 1 S. Pet. i. 2—11.

Then repeat the first Hymn in the Ordination Service,

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, &c.

Then say one or more of the Psalms following,

iv. viii. xxvii. xxxvi. lvi. lxv. lxviii. lxxxiv. cxix. parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 14.

Then say your usual Prayers, and add one or more of the following Collects,

4th Sunday in Advent; Christmas Day; 5th Sunday after Epiphany; Quinquagesima; 5th Sunday after Easter; Sunday after the Ascension; Whit-Sunday; 4th, 6th, 9th, 14th, 18th, 19th Sundays after Trinity; St. Barnabas; St. Simon and St. Jude; first Collect in the Communion Service.

And this Prayer,

Most merciful God, by whose gracious providence I was born of Christian parents, and early dedicated to Thee in holy Baptism, wherein I was made a member of the Catholic Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head, adopted thy child, and entitled to the unspeakable happiness of thy glorious kingdom; I most heartily thank Thee for calling me to this state of salvation, and for bestowing upon me such blessed privileges. O dispose my mind, by thy heavenly grace, carefully and diligently to perform those conditions which Thou requirest to qualify me for such inestimable benefits, and that I may continue in the same unto my life's end.

And now, O Lord, that I am preparing myself to receive a further degree of thy grace and favour, which will advance me into the number of the faithful who are admitted to approach thy Holy Table, I humbly beseech Thee to enlighten my mind with the true knowledge and understanding of that solemn vow which I made at my baptism, and which I am now about to ratify and confirm publicly in thy presence; that I may constantly renounce the devil, by avoiding all those temptations with which he seeks to destroy me, and by abstaining from all those sins which partake most of his nature; that I may resist all covetous desires of honour, riches, and pleasure, and all those evil customs and maxims of the world which alienate men's minds from the love of God; that I may mortify all the inordinate

appetites of my corrupt nature; that I may believe all thy holy revelations, and keep thy blessed will and commandments all the days of my life.

Give me, O Lord, unfeigned repentance for all my past errors; that the many and great sins which I have committed may not deprive me of the assistance of thy Holy Spirit which I am about to receive: but let my hearty sorrow, through the merits of Christ, wash away all that is past; and let power and strength communicated to me from above mortify and subdue them for the time to come. I am unable, O Lord, of myself to help myself; mercifully grant that thy blessed Spirit may in all things rule my heart, that by his holy inspiration I may think those things that are good, and by his merciful guiding may perform the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

DEVOTIONS

TO BE USED AT THE TIME OF CONFIRMATION.

On going into Church, say,

I will pay my vows unto the Lord, in the sight of all his people: in the courts of the Lord's house, even in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

An offering of a free heart will I give Thee, and praise thy name, O Lord; because it is so comfortable.

Behold my delight is in thy commandments; O quicken me in thy righteousness.

Give me the comfort of thy help again; and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

O God, who hast prepared for them that love Thee such good things as pass men's understanding; pour into my heart such love towards Thee, that I, loving Thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that I can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If there should be still time before the beginning of the service, read slowly and meditate upon Psalm cxix. parts 1—4.

Before receiving the imposition of hands, say:—

Be merciful unto me, O God; for the evil one goeth about to devour me; he is daily fighting and troubling me.

Mine enemies are daily in hand to swallow me up, for they be many that fight against me, O Thou Most Highest.

But Thou, O Lord, art my defender. Thou art my worship, and the lifter up of my head.

For Thou, O Lord Jesu Christ, art gone up on high. Thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men; yea, even for thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

O God, the Holy Ghost, wonderful art Thou in thy holy places: even the God of Israel. He will give strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.

O Lord God Almighty, who didst endue thy

holy Apostles, and those on whom they laid their hands, with singular gifts of the Holy Ghost; leave me not, I beseech Thee, destitute of thy manifold gifts, nor yet of grace to use them alway to thy honour and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

If there should still be time, read slowly and meditate upon Psalm xxvii.

After receiving the imposition of hands, say :—

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart hath trusted in Him, and I am helped.

Therefore my heart danceth for joy; and in my song will I praise Him.

The Lord is my strength; and he is the wholesome defence of his anointed.

As for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. My trust is in the tender mercy of God for ever and ever.

I will always give thanks unto Thee for that Thou hast done; and I will hope in thy Name, for thy saints like it well.

O save thy people, and give thy blessing to thine inheritance: feed them, and set them up for ever.

O God, forasmuch as without Thee I am not able to please Thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule my heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, I beseech Thee to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion;

that they, who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace, may evermore be defended by thy mighty power, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

If there should still be time, read slowly and meditate upon Psalm ciii.

DEVOTIONS

TO BE USED IN PRIVATE FOR SOME TIME AFTER CONFIRMATION.

Take daily one of the following passages for meditation,

Romans xii. 1 Cor. xii. 1—13; xii. 27, to xiii. 13. Gal. v. 16—26. Ephes. i. 13—18; ii. 18—22; iv.

Then say one or more of the Psalms following,

xx. xxiii. xliii. xlvi. lxiii. lxxi. lxxiii. xci. xcii. ciii. cxi. cxxi. cxlv.

Then say your usual prayers, and add one or more of the following Collects,

5th Sunday after the Epiphany; 2nd for Good Friday; Easter Day; 3rd Sunday after Easter; 2nd, 5th, 17th, 19th, 25th Sundays after Trinity; for St. Michael and all Angels; All Saints' Day; 1st in the Confirmation Service;

And this prayer,

I bless and praise thy Holy Name, O Lord God, for those renewed assurances which Thou hast vouchsafed me of thy favour and gracious goodness towards me; and for that, though in

thine infinite wisdom Thou hast thought fit to withdraw the extraordinary gifts of thy Holy Spirit, Thou art yet pleased to guide thy faithful servants by his secret and invisible communications, when they seek them in a regular and ministerial way. O, therefore, let the blessing, which I have received by the hands of thy servant the Bishop, be and remain with me, and most powerfully help and support me in all trials and temptations, when I most need the aid of thy Holy Spirit. Leave me not a moment to my own frailty, without his assistance: but through his succours enable me to adhere to that public and solemn profession of my faith, which I have declared in the presence of God and the congregation; and faithfully to perform the promises I have renewed, of observing and keeping thy holy commandments; that walking uprightly before Thee all my days, and being found watching, when my appointed time shall come, I may, from a life of righteousness, be translated to a life of glory, through Jesus Christ, my only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

THE END.

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